

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering assembled into a steering shaft for a vehicle and having a female shaft and a male shaft that are so fitted to each other as to be unable to relatively rotate but to be slidable, said female shaft having its end portion attached with a seal member for preventing rain water etc from entering inside a fitting portion between said female shaft and said male shaft by sealing this fitting portion,

said seal member being constructed of a high-rigidity support member and an elastic member,

wherein an intermediate portion of said support member is bent, one end of said support member is a fixed portion fixed to the end portion of said female shaft, and at least a front end portion on the other side of said support member is a fitted portion to which said elastic member is fitted so as to be in contact with an outer peripheral surface of said male shaft with frictional force.

2. (Original) The telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to claim 1, wherein said support member is formed from a metallic material.

3. (Currently Amended) The telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein an end of said fitted portion of said support member and the outer peripheral surface of said male shaft are substantially proximal without being brought into contact with each other.

4. (Original) The telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to claim 1, wherein the outer peripheral surface of said male shaft is provided with a worked portion for sliding worked so as to be fitted relatively unrotatably but slidably with respect to an inner peripheral surface of said female shaft, and

an end portion of said fitted portion of said support member has its inside diameter that is set smaller than an outside diameter of said worked portion for sliding.

5. (Currently Amended) The telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein at least one of contact portions between said elastic member and said male shaft is coated with a solid lubricating film.

6. (Currently Amended) The telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein said elastic member has a grease reservoir.

7. (Currently Amended) The telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein a second elastic member is interposed between the end portion of said fixed portion of said support member and said female shaft.

8. (New) The telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to claim 2, wherein an end of said fitted portion of said support member and the outer peripheral surface of said male shaft are substantially proximal without being brought into contact with each other.

9. (New) The telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to claim 2, wherein at least one of contact portions between said elastic member and said male shaft is coated with a solid lubricating film.

10. (New) The telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to claim 2, wherein said elastic member has a grease reservoir.

11. (New) The telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to claim 2, wherein a second elastic member is interposed between the end portion of said fixed portion of said support member and said female shaft.